## What is claimed is:

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1	1.	A process for use in a database system	,, oomprom <sub>5</sub> .

- 2 storing data according to a first user-defined data type in a table;
- associating at least a first compression routine with the first user-defined data
- 4 type; and
- 5 using the first compression routine to compress the data according to the first
- 6 user-defined data type.
- 1 2. The process of claim 1, further comprising using a second compression routine to
- 2 compress the data to improve compression efficiency.
- 1 3. The process of claim 2, wherein using the first and second compression routines
- 2 comprises using user-defined data type methods.
- 1 4. The process of claim 3, wherein using the user-defined data type methods
- 2 comprises using methods built in with the first user-defined data type.
- 1 5. The process of claim 1, wherein using the first compression routine comprises
- 2 using a first compression method built in with the first user-defined data type.
- 1 6. The process of claim 5, further comprising providing a user-defined method
- 2 executable to invoke the first compression method.
- 1 7. The process of claim 6, further comprising invoking the user-defined method to
- 2 invoke a second compression method built in with the first user-defined data type.
- 1 8. The process of claim 7, wherein invoking the user-defined method comprises
- 2 invoking the user-defined method to alter compression efficiency.

- 1 9. The process of claim 1, further comprising providing a second user-defined data
- 1 10. The process of claim 9, further comprising storing a first type of data using the
- 2 first user-defined data type and storing a second type of data using the second user-
- 3 defined data type.

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- 1 11. The process of claim 10, further comprising using a second compression routine
- 2 to compress the second type of data.

type built upon the first user-defined data type.

- 1 12. The process of claim 9, further comprising inheriting at least a data structure and
- 2 at least a built-in method from the first user-defined data type into the second user-
- 3 defined data type.
- 1 13. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions that 2 when executed cause a system to:
- 3 store data according to a first user-defined data type; and
- associate a first compression routine with the first user-defined data type for
  - 5 compressing the data.
  - 1 14. The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system
  - 2 to associate a second compression routine with the first user-defined data type, the first
  - and second compression routines providing different compression algorithms.
  - 1 15. The article of claim 14, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system
  - 2 to provide the first compression routine as a method built in with the first user-defined
  - 3 data type.

- 1 16. The article of claim 15, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system
- 2 to provide the second compression routine as a method built in with the first user-defined
- 3 data type.
- 1 17. The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system
- 2 to associated a first data structure with the first user-defined data type, the first data
- 3 structure to indicate a type of compression applied on a data object.
- 1 18. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system
- 2 to associate a second data structure with the first user-defined data type, the second data
- 3 structure to indicate a percentage amount of compression of the data object.
- 1 19. The article of claim 18, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system
- 2 to access the first and second data structures of the data object when accessing the data
- 3 object.
- 1 20. The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system
- 2 to store the data object in a relational table.
- 1 21. The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system
- 2 to store the data object in a relational table distributed across multiple access modules.
- 1 22. The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system
- 2 to provide a second user-defined data type built upon the first user-defined data type.
- 1 23. The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system
- 2 to provide a second user-defined data type built upon the first user-defined data type.
- 1 24. The article of claim 23, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system
- 2 to inherit the first compression routine from the first user-defined data type into the
- 3 second user-defined data type.

1	25.	The article of claim 24, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system		
2	to:			
3		associate a second compression routine with the first user-defined data type; and		
4		inherit the second compression routine from the first user-defined data type into		
5	the sec	second user-defined data type.		
1	26.	The article of claim 25, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system		
2	to:			
3		store a first type of data using the first user-defined data type; and		
4		store a second type of data using the second user-defined data type.		
1	27.	A database system, comprising:		
2		a storage system to store at least a table;		
3		a plurality of compression routines to apply respective different compression		
4	algorithms; and			
5		a controller adapted to invoke one of plurality of compression routines to		
6	compress data stored in the table.			
1	28.	The database system of claim 27, wherein the table includes a relational table and		
2	the da	the data is stored in a first attribute of the relational table.		
1	29.	The database system of claim 28, wherein the first attribute is according to a first		
2	user-c	user-defined data type.		
1	30.	The database system of claim 29, wherein the plurality of compression routines		
2	are m	are methods built in with the first user-defined data type.		

- 1 31. The database system of claim 30, the storage system to store a second table
- 2 having a second attribute according to a second user-defined data type built upon the first
- 3 user-defined data type.



- 1 32. The database system of claim 27, wherein the controller is adapted to invoke
- 2 another one of the compression routines to alter compression of the data.
- 1 33. The database system of claim 32, wherein the controller is adapted to invoke
- 2 another one of the compression routines in response to a Structured Query Language
- 3 UPDATE statement.
- 1 34. The database system of claim 33, wherein the controller comprises a user-defined
- 2 method.

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- 1 35. The database system of claim 34, wherein the plurality of compression routines
- 2 comprise methods built in with the first user-defined data type,
- the user-defined method executable to invoke the methods built in with the first
- 4 user-defined data type.
- 1 36. The database system of claim 27, further comprising a plurality of access modules
- 2 adapted to manage access to respective portions of the storage system.
- 1 37. The database system of claim 36, wherein the table is distributed across multiple
- 2 access modules.